

# **Interagency Sustainability Working Group of the Interagency Federal Energy Management Task Force**

## **Introduction**

The Interagency Sustainability Working Group was established in September 2001, in response to *Executive Order 13123 – Greening the Government Through Efficient Energy Management* (referred to as the “order”). The order includes the following guidance regarding sustainable design in Federal Facilities:

**Part 4 – Promoting Federal Leadership in Energy Management, Sec. 403. Energy Management Strategies and Tools. (d) Sustainable Building Design.** DOD and GSA, in consultation with DOE and EPA, shall develop sustainable design principles. Agencies shall apply such principles to the siting, design, and construction of new facilities. Agencies shall optimize life-cycle costs, pollution, and other environmental and energy costs associated with the construction, life-cycle operation, and decommissioning of the facility. Agencies shall consider using Energy Savings Performance Contracts or utility energy-efficiency service contracts to aid them in construction sustainably designed buildings.

To achieve the sustainable design goals established in the executive order, the Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) created a new working group, the *Interagency Sustainability Working Group*, to operate under the auspices of the Interagency Energy Management Task Force (referred to as the “task force”). **The purpose of the Interagency Sustainability Working Group is to:**

- (1) Serve as a forum for the exchange of information** within the Federal Government on individual agency sustainable design activities
- (2) Foster and encourage each Executive Branch department and agency to consider the adoption of sustainable design practices and technologies** in new Federally owned, operated, and leased buildings as well as major renovations of existing Federal facilities
- (3) Identify and propose solutions to barriers** for the adoption of sustainable design in the Federal sector

## **Interagency Sustainability Working Group**

**Composition** The working group is chaired by FEMP and composed of members representing a broad cross section of Federal agencies, including the Departments of Energy, Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Health and Human Services, Interior, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and State, as well as the Bonneville Power Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, General Accounting Office, General Services Administration, Office of Environmental Executive, Office of Management and Budget, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Postal Service, and White House Task Force

on Recycling. The working group welcomes the participation of any other Federal department or agency.

**Meetings** Working group meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis in Washington, DC and in general, include a three-hour format of open discussion and presentations by Federal and private sector officials involved in activities related to sustainable design. Many of the presenters are officials who are nationally recognized for their programs and accomplishments.

**Membership** There are approximately 40 – 50 “active” members out of a total of 180 officials representing a cross section of Federal agencies that participate in working group meetings on a regular basis. The current working group list includes 135 Federal officials, 20 DOE national laboratory personnel serving FEMP, 2 contractors serving FEMP, as well as several officials representing consultants to Federal members and nonprofit organizations.

**Accomplishments** Provided below is a brief description of the activities and accomplishments of the working group.

- (1) **Vehicle for Interagency Networking** Since the working group’s inception, several actions have been taken to ensure the ongoing flow of information to and among participants. To achieve this, an [Intranet web site](#) was established, allowing Federal agencies to post sensitive and draft agency-sponsored sustainable design information for member review and comment, as appropriate. [Bi-monthly meeting reports](#) include a summary of the most recent working group meeting discussion and presentations, listing of pending Federal sustainable design projects (culled from the Commerce Business Daily), and a listing of future conferences, workshops, and training programs dealing with sustainable design and related topics. [Roundtable announcements](#) of agency-sponsored projects, policies, and events at the bi-monthly meetings; this serves as an excellent vehicle for agencies to exchange information and network with one another following the meetings.
- (2) **Evaluations** Working group also reviewed and/or evaluated a number of reports and program activities dealing with the DOE Checklist of Opportunities to Upgrade Energy Efficiency with Building Security, U.S. Green Building Council report on high-performance green buildings and abstracts for an international conference, ASHRAE’s plans to promote sustainability, Section 55 of OMB Circular A-11, and the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive’s recent report on green buildings.
- (3) **Presentations** Working group members have benefited from presentations on a wide range of topics as well as the opportunity to question public and private sector officials recognized for their expertise. [Presentations on Federal programs](#) included topics dealing with the Status of Comprehensive Energy Legislation; DOE’s Building Technology Roadmaps; DOE’s High Performance Building R&D Program and Database; FEMP’s Operations and Maintenance Program; GSA’s Building Design Program for Comfort and Productivity (People, Process & Place); State Department’s Combined Security and Sustainability Program; Naval Facilities Engineering Command’s Sustainable Contract Language; Office of the Federal Environmental Executive activities; Energy

Management at the Pentagon; EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program; West Coast Federal Network for Sustainability; and OMB's Guidance on Planning, Budgeting, Acquisition & Management of Capital Assets Program. A number of [national laboratory presentations](#) have also proven valuable to working group members; the laboratories provide ongoing technical support to FEMP and other Federal agencies. Topics have included EnergyStar® for New Buildings, Update on the LEED Rating System and update on LEED committees, Indoor Health and Productivity, Building Investment Designer Support Tool, 10 Ways to Help Ensure that Federal Buildings are Truly Sustainable, Future Status of LEED and Efforts to Organize and Make More Accessible the Growing Literature on Sustainable Design and Construction Policies and Guidelines, and Los Alamos National Laboratory Sustainable Design Guide. [Private sector presentations](#) included the Federal Network for Sustainable Design, Rocky Mountain Institutes' Green Development Program, Sustainability Efforts and Future Plans of the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers.

- (4) Site Visits** The group gained first-hand insight on current and innovative sustainable design practices by touring the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's green building in Annapolis, Maryland; the campus of the U.S. Naval Academy; and the National Building Museum's "Big and Green" exhibit on sustainable architecture for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- (5) Research and Analysis** The working group created three subgroups to address specific activities and provide recommendations to the full working group: 1) Prioritizing Energy Requirements for Implementation as Sustainable Design Features in Federal Agencies Subgroup, 2) Renewable Power Purchasing Subgroup, and 3) Development of a Business Case for Sustainable Design Subgroup.

In addition, the working group has conducted surveys to collect data on the square footage of Federal facilities, by agency; compiled data on Federal sustainable projects in the National Capital Region, and collected information on Federal green building case studies.

## INTERAGENCY SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP (ISWG) LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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### VEHICLE FOR INTERAGENCY NETWORKING

Working group members have benefited from presentations on a wide range of topics as well as the opportunity to question public and private sector officials recognized for their expertise. Below is a list of presentations provided by the Interagency Sustainability Working Group:

### PRESENTATIONS

Date	Topic	Speaker
9-26-01	<i>Building Technology Roadmaps; Sustainability versus Security</i>	Mark Ginsberg, Deputy Assistant Secretary; Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs; U.S. Department of Energy
9-26-01	<i>Overview of the Federal Facilities Council and its Sustainable Design Activities</i>	Lynda Stanley, Executive Director, Federal Facilities Council
9-26-01	<i>Federal Agency Benchmarking Activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration</i>	Pedro Colon, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
9-26-01	<i>Overview of the Federal Network for Sustainability</i>	Helen English, Steven Winters Associates Management Support
9-26-01	<i>NAVAC Contract Language</i>	Mike Chapman, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
11-07-01	<i>Update on LEED Rating System</i>	Satish Kumar, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
11-07-01	<i>Indoor Health and Productivity (IHP)</i>	Satish Kumar, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
11-07-01	<i>Update on the Federal Network for Sustainability</i>	Al Hurt, Federal Network for Sustainability
11-07-01	<i>Developing FEMP &amp; PNNL Draft Business Case Development for Sustainability Report – Update 1</i>	Marylynn Placet, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
12-11-01	<i>Update on LEED Rating System</i>	Steve Keppler, Enverity (formerly with the U.S. Green Building Council)
12-11-01	<i>Energy Management at the Pentagon</i>	Bob Billak, Pentagon Energy Manager, Department of Defense (DOD)
12-11-01	<i>Introduction to the Interagency Sustainability Working Group Website</i>	Sara Farrar-Nagy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
12-11-01	<i>Update on Business Case Development for Sustainability</i>	Marylynn Placet, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
2-06-02	<i>Building Investment Designer Support Tool</i>	Satish Kumar, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)
2-06-02	<i>Update on the first meeting of the Renewable Power Purchasing Sub Group</i>	Chandra Shah, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
2-06-02	<i>Developing a Business Case for Sustainable (High Performance) Facilities in the Federal Sector – Update 2</i>	Marylynn Placet, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
3-20-02	<i>Summary of the Owens Corning Energy Management Program</i>	Peter Garforth, Owens Corning
4-10-02	<i>Ten Ways to Help Ensure that Federal Buildings are Truly Sustainable</i>	Rick Diamond, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and Mike MacDonald, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)
4-10-02	<i>EnergyStar® for New Buildings</i>	Mike MacDonald, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL)
4-10-02	<i>Update on Developing a Business Case for Sustainable (High Performance) Facilities in the Federal Sector – Update 3</i>	Marylynn Placet, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)
4-10-02	<i>Update on Research Work and a Database of Case Studies from DOE's High Performance Buildings Research Program</i>	Dru Crawley, Department of Energy's Office of Building Technology, State and Community Programs
4-10-02	<i>The Public Building Service (PBS) Research Program Investigates "People, Process &amp; Place"</i>	Kevin Kampschroer, General Services Administration
6-12-02	<i>Rocky Mountain Institutes' Green Development Program</i>	Bill Browning, Rocky Mountain Institute
8-07-02	<i>Improving Federal Environmental Stewardship</i>	John Howard Jr., the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive
10-20-02	<i>Department of States' Combined Security &amp; Sustainability Efforts</i>	Mark Hughes & Wayne Ashbery, Department of State
10-20-02	<i>Feedback on Draft ISWG's Report, The Business Case for Sustainable Design in Federal Facilities</i>	Beverly Dyer, Federal Energy Management Program, Department of Energy
12-04-02	<i>FEMP's Operations and Management (O&amp;M) Program</i>	Ab Ream, Federal Energy Management Program
12-04-02	<i>HOK's Designers' Perspective Experience on Implementing Sustainable Design</i>	Lisa McCabe, HOK Sustainable Design
12-04-02	<i>EPA's Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program (EPP)</i>	Alison Kinn, Environmental Protection Agency
12-04-02	<i>Preliminary Findings of the Sustainable Federal Facilities Business Case Workshop - November 19, 2002,</i>	Anne Crawley, Federal Energy Management Program
12-04-02	<i>West Coast Federal Network for Sustainability (FNS)</i>	Cheri Sayer, Department of Energy's Seattle Regional Office
3-26-03	<i>Present and future status of LEED &amp; Efforts to Organize and Make More Accessible the Growing Literature on Sustainable Design and Construction Policies and Guidelines</i>	Jeff Harris and Christopher Payne, LBNL

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
3-26-03	<i>Office of the Federal Environmental Executives Green Building Initiatives</i>	Charles Johnson, OFEE
3-26-03	<i>Update on FEMP's Draft Business Case for Sustainable Design Fact Sheet and Report</i>	Beverly Dyer and Anne Crawley, FEMP
3-26-03	<i>Sustainability Efforts and Future Plans of ASHRAE</i>	Terry Townsend, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)
4-23-03	<i>Federal Involvement in LEED Committees</i>	Satish Kumar of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL)
4-23-03	<i>New Buildings Institute Advanced Building Guidelines</i>	Jim Edelson, Project Manager, New Buildings Institute
4-23-03	<i>High Performance Buildings Database</i>	Dru Crawley, Building Technologies Program, Department of Energy
6-18-03	<i>Planning, Budgeting, Acquisition &amp; Management of Capital Assets</i>	Cyndi Vallina, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
10-15-03	<i>Status on H.R. 6 – Energy Policy Act of 2003</i>	Beth Shearer, Director Federal Energy Management Program, DOE
10-15-03	<i>Los Alamos National Laboratory Sustainable Design Guide</i>	Sheila Hayter, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
10-15-03	<i>Report on the Federal Commitment to Green Building: Experiences and Expectations</i>	Charles Johnson, OFEE
10-15-03	<i>Protocols and Indicators for Sustainable Buildings</i>	Anne Crawley, FEMP, DOE and Joel Todd, consultant
12-17-03	<i>Overview on the December 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Federal Green Building Council</i>	John Howard, OFEE

## **EVALUATIONS**

Working group also reviewed and/or evaluated a number of reports and program activities. Below is a list of evaluations performed:

- Evaluated *Checklist of Opportunities to Upgrade Energy Efficiency with Building Security and Comments for FEMP Checklist*, October 30, 2002
- Reviewed the U.S. Green Buildings Council report, *Building Momentum: National Trends and Prospects for High-Performance Green Buildings*, December 4, 2002
- Reviewed and provided comments on U.S. Green Buildings Council report, *Building Momentum: National Trends and Prospects for High-Performance Green Buildings*, December 2002
- Reviewed abstracts for the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) *International Conference and Expo* scheduled for November 12-14, 2003, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 26, 2003
- Provided Comments on ASHRAE's future plans to promote sustainability, March 26, 2003
- Submitted comments on *Section 55 of OMB Circular A-11*, June 18, 2003



- Reviewed Office of Federal Environment Executive's *Federal Commitment to Green Building: Experiences and Expectations*, September 2003

## **SITE VISITS**

The group gained first-hand insight on current and innovative sustainable design practices by conducting the following site visits:

- Chesapeake Bay Foundation's (CBF) Headquarters, Annapolis, Maryland (August 7, 2002)
  - CBF's Philip Merrill Environmental Center
- U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland (August 7, 2002)
  - Campus of the U.S. Naval Academy
- National Building Museum Exhibit, Big and Green: Toward Sustainable Architecture in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Howard Decker, Curator, National Building Museum, June 18, 2003

## **RESEARCH & ANALYSIS**

Through research and analysis and by establishing sub-working groups, the Interagency Sustainability Working Group has have developed reports, matrixes, compiled data, and provided recommendations to address specific activities. Below is a list of research activities performed by the Interagency Sustainability Working Group:

- *Top Priorities on Sustainability-Related Projects/Activities Beneficial/Suitable for the Interagency Sustainability Working Group to Address*, September 26, 2001
- *Matrix of Federal Agency Activities in Sustainability*, November 7, 2001
- *Compilation of Case Studies Describing Sustainable Design Projects*, February 2002
- *Provided data for Federal Government Green Building Initiatives: 2002 Federal Agency Survey*, USGBC, April 2002
- *Index of Major Federal Agency Sustainable Design Policy and Criteria*, August 2002
- *Summarized Solicitation Language Issued by Various Federal Agencies with References to Energy Efficiency and/or Sustainable Design*, October 30, 2002
- *Index of Major Federal Agency Sustainability Design Policy and Criteria*, December 4, 2002
- *Business Case for Sustainable Design in Federal Facilities*, September 2003
- *Assisted in the development of Building Design & Construction: White Paper on Sustainability*, November 2003

## **SURVEY FOR INFORMATION**

The working group has also conducted surveys to collect data. Below are some examples of surveys conducted by the Interagency Sustainability Working Group:

- Compiled data on the estimated square footage in Federal facilities for each individual agency, March 26, 2003
- Compiled data on Federal projects to support the activities of the National Capital Region Chapter of the USGBC
- Compiled agency contacts involved in Federal green building case studies

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